Inventory for
Manuscript Collection

PMM 75
Robert Limeburner Family Papers
1851 - 1899

1 flat box
1 linear foot
Accession No. LB1999.53

Stephen Phillips Memorial Library
Penobscot Marine Museum
11 Church St., Searsport, Maine 04974
penobscotmarinemuseum.org
207-548-2529 ext. 212 │ libraryresearcher@pmm-maine.org
Copyright Restrictions

The material described herein is the physical property of the Penobscot Marine Museum. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors of the various items, or to their legal representatives, or to the Penobscot Marine Museum. For further information, consult the library staff.

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials.

Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be “used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship or research.” If a user later uses a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of “fair use,” that user may be liable for copyright infringement.

This institution reserves the right to refuse to accept a copying order if fulfillment of the order is judged to be in violation of copyright law. It is the user’s responsibility to understand the copyright law concerning the use of the historical documents contained in this library.

Copyright © 2020 by Penobscot Marine Museum

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of the Stephen Phillips Memorial Library at the Penobscot Marine Museum.
PMM 75
Robert Limeburner Family Papers

Limeburner, Robert, 1822-1884
   Papers, 1851-1899
   1 flat box (1 linear foot)
   Sea captain from Belfast, Maine
   Accounts, bills, crew lists, correspondence, and other shipping papers from Captain
   Robert Limeburner of Belfast, Maine. The bulk of the collection is from Limeburner’s command
   of the ship ROBERT M. SLOMAN, which he sailed in the Peruvian guano trade just after the
   Civil War. The collection also includes material from Limeburner’s earlier commands in the
   coasting trade, some shipping papers from his son, Captain Frank W. Limeburner, and a few
   family documents.
   In English
   Beatrice E. Dunham; Gift; 1999; LB1999.53
   Finding aid available; folder level control

Subject Headings:
   Limeburner, Robert, 1822-1884
   Coastwise shipping
   Lumber trade
   Merchant mariners
   Ship captains
   Shipping

Local Subject Headings:
   Guano trade

Acquisition:
   This collection was given to Penobscot Marine Museum by Beatrice E. Dunham in 1999.

Restrictions
   This collection is open for research. There are no special restrictions.

Condition:
   This collection is in good condition, with some light wear and foxing.

Processing Note:
   Materials in this collection arrived in an embossed folder with Robert Limeburner’s
   signature on the inside.

Related Materials:
   A colored sketch of the half brig GEORGIANA (LB1999.53.2) was donated with this
   collection. While there is no attribution on the sketch, Limeburner may have commanded the
   vessel briefly in 1854.

Historical Note:
   Robert Limeburner (1822-1884) was a sea captain from Belfast, Maine. He started his
   career in the coasting trades, and, by the 1850s, was in command of the brig SAMUEL OTIS
carrying lumber from Maine and Southern ports. He continued to sail during the Civil War, commanding the ships EMILY GARDINER and ROBERT M. SLOMAN, both Belfast-built vessels that were registered in Hamburg, Germany, to protect them from Confederate privateers. These vessels were active in the Peruvian guano trade, primarily carrying guano to European ports.

Limeburner married Mary Walker (1825-1897) of Brooksville, Maine. They had two sons: Rufus P. (b. 1850) and Frank W. (1852-1912), both of whom spent their early careers as sea captains. Mary Walker Limeburner was active in the Women’s Christian Temperance Union of Belfast through the 1890s.

Oscar L. Limeburner (1850-1902) was the son of Thomas and Hannah (Means) Limeburner, also of Belfast. Thomas Limeburner was a stonecutter, but Oscar became a mariner.

Scope and Content:
Accounts, bills, crew lists, correspondence, and other records of Captain Robert Limeburner’s maritime career form the bulk of this collection. Limeburner’s command of the brig SAMUEL OTIS, in the coastal lumber trade, and the ship R. M. SLOMAN, in the guano trade, are best represented. Almost all of the correspondence relates to the affairs of the R.M. SLOMAN; most letters were written by Baker McNear or his son, George W. McNear, both sea captains who evidently took a management role in the vessel. These provide details on the European coal and guano trades, from freight rates to chronometer prices.

There are also a few documents from other members of the family, namely, bills of lading from the coasting schooner MARY FARROW, commanded by Frank W. Limeburner in the 1870s; a list of membership dues from the Belfast Women’s Christian Temperance Union, kept by treasurer Mary Limeburner; and a mate’s certificate for Oscar L. Limeburner. The collection also contains seamen’s protection certificates for Eben Hale of Sedgwick, John H. Hunt of Lubec, and Amos G. Walker of Brooksville; accounts for the ship HOPE addressed to Captain R. Meldrum; and some blank shipping forms.

Box and Folder List:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Robert Limeburner, shipping papers, brig SAMUEL OTIS, 1852-1859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ship EMILY GARDINER, 1860-1861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ship ROBERT M. SLOMAN, 1865-1868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Robert Limeburner, correspondence, 1857-1868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Robert Limeburner, personal accounts; undated material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mary (Walker) Limeburner, Women’s Christian Temperance Union membership list, 1891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Frank W. Limeburner, shipping papers, schooner MARY FARROW, 1877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oscar L. Limeburner, mate’s license, 1899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Circulars; blank shipping forms; chart of approaches to Liverpool, 1860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Seamen’s protection certificates for Eben Hale, John H. Hunt, and Amos G. Walker, 1849-1855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Account for ship HOPE addressed to Captain R. Meldrum, 1866</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>